Observer Status in SAARC

4632. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existence of observer status held by US, China and Japan in SAARC has added any discomfiture to India;

(b) the stand of India in allowing Observers in SAARC; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India has welcomed the presence of Observers in SAARC. Government are of view that SAARC will benefit from these external linkages.

Concept of Visa on Arrival at Airport

4633. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government planned to introduce the concept of visa on arrival at airports in our country;

(b) if so, the security norms to be followed by the authority to verify the authentications of travel purpose and details provided by just entering passengers; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Pow Languishing in Pakistani Jails

†4634. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Pakistan has allowed the relatives of Indian Prisoners of War and Non-Government Organizations

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.